

# STATE OF IOWA

CHESTER J. CULVER, GOVERNOR PATTY JUDGE, LT. GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION JUDY A. JEFFREY, DIRECTOR

NEWS RELEASE For Immediate Release January 12, 2009 For More Information: Elaine Watkins-Miller, 515-281-5651 elaine.watkins-miller@iowa.gov

# **Majority of School Districts in Iowa Continue to See Enrollment Declines**

**DES MOINES**, **lowa** – This fall, 249 or 69 percent of the lowa's 362 school districts reported a decrease in certified enrollment, according to the official report released today by the lowa Department of Education (DE). Certified enrollment is used in the formula that determines state funding for public school districts.

This annual decrease follows the long-term trend of the majority of school districts experiencing declining enrollment. Since 2003-2004, over three quarters of lowa school districts have reported a decrease. Based on certified enrollment, the public school districts with the largest decreases over the past five years are:

## **Percent Decrease of Students\***

School District	2003 Enrollment	2008 Enrollment	Percent of Decrease	
SEYMOUR	364	245	-32.7%	
RICEVILLE	425	294	-30.9%	
OLIN CONSOLIDATED	326	228	-30.1%	
ORIENT- MACKSBURG	306	215	-29.7%	
SOUTH PAGE	318	226	-28.8%	

## **Number Decrease of Students\***

School District	2003 Enrollment	2008 Enrollment	Number of Students
DES MOINES	32,139	30,783	-1,356
DAVENPORT	16,969	16,202	-768
SIOUX CITY	14,405	13,735	-670
COUNCIL BLUFFS	9,820	9,212	-608
MASON CITY	4,298	3,949	-349

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Some districts across the state show enrollment increases. This year there were 112 or 31 percent of districts reporting an increase in enrollment. One district in the state reported no change in enrollment. The districts reporting the largest increases over the past five years are:

#### Percent Increase of Students\*

School District	2003 Enrollment	2008 Enrollment	Percent of Increase
WAUKEE	3,563	5,967	67.5%
JOHNSTON	4,613	5,776	25.2%
BONDURANT- FARRAR	972	1,213	24.8%
NORTH POLK	954	1,181	23.9%
ANKENY	6,446	7,948	23.3%

#### **Number Increase of Students\***

School District	2003 Enrollment	2008 Enrollment	Number of Students
WAUKEE	3,563	5,967	2,405
ANKENY	6,446	7,948	1,502
JOHNSTON	4,613	5,776	1,163
SOUTHEAST POLK	4,868	5,966	1,098
LINN-MAR	5,413	6,491	1,078

<sup>\*</sup>The districts reported are those that have operated with grades kindergarten through 12 over the five-year period from 2003 through 2008; districts that merged, consolidated, or share whole grades are not included.

The total certified enrollment count for lowa's public school districts this school year is 477,019, a decline of 3,590 students or about 0.75 percent compared to last year. This decrease is due in part to a slight reporting change in weightings enacted by the 2008 legislature. Without this reporting change, the decline in enrollment between the 2007 and 2008 enrollment counts would have been only 0.4 percent. This marks the 11<sup>th</sup> consecutive year of decline in the total state certified enrollment.

Certified enrollment is based on the number of students that reside in each school district. It also includes the "weighting" or the additional funding for each student in specific programs, such as students attending post-secondary classes while still in high school or students needing assistance in learning the English language. Certified enrollment count is taken on the first day of October every year and official numbers are confirmed by the Iowa Department of Education.

The full certified enrollment count report may be found on the lowa Department of Education website at <a href="www.iowa.gov/educate">www.iowa.gov/educate</a> (go to the left-hand side of the homepage, click on "School Business & Finance and then click on "Certified Enrollment").

Iowa Department of Education

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The lowa Department of Education works with the State of Iowa Board of Education to provide oversight, supervision and support for the state education system, which includes public elementary and secondary schools, nonpublic schools that receive state accreditation, area education agencies, community colleges and teacher preparation programs. The department is committed to high levels of learning, achievement and performance for all students, so they will become successful members of their community and the workforce.